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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1896.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGISTS—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT— THE EVOLUTION OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY.

THE earliest accounts of injuries caused by insects, so far as I have seen, are contained in the Old Testament, but nowhere in this work is it stated that attempts of any kind were made to destroy the insects or hold them in check in any way. In many instances the visitations of insects in large numbers were looked upon as plagues sent by the Almighty. Three of the plagues of Egypt, portrayed so vividly in the book of Exodus, were caused by insects, one by lice, one by flies and one by locusts, but in each case Pharaoh looked for and sought relief only by divine interposition through the good influence of Moses, 'the great lawgiver.'

In the book of Joel sundry judgments of God are declared, among which the devastations of insects are referred to with some detail. The prophet seems to take a pessimistic view of their work, and no hint is given, or even suggested, of any method of checking their ravages.

Aristotle, in his History of Animals, published about 200 years before the Christian era, while treating of insects, gives us nothing whatever of an economic nature concerning them.

Pliny, in his great work on the History of the World, published about the year 77